National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority

727. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority created by an administrative order does not enjoy stationary authority and is only extended appendage of the Department of Chemicals and Petro-chemicals and the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices will continue to monitor the prices of bulk drugs;

(b) if so, furnish the details of justification for NPPA not being given the statutory status with independence in fixation of prices as envisaged under the new drug policy;

(c) the details of the functions assigned to NPPA and steps taken to ensure its early functioning;

(d) the total number of cases pending for price fixation, revision or rationalisation; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to ensure speedy disposal of the pending proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (c). The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has been created under the Drug Policy, 1986 as modified in 1994. The modifications did not stipulated that the NPPA should be a statutory aurhority. NPPA would be an independent body, as envisaged in the new Drug Policy. The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices is only a recommendatory body and does not monitor the prices of drugs.

(d) and (e). Price fixation/revision of prices of indigenously produced bulk drugs and formulations is done in accordance with the provisions of DPCO, 1995 and the prices are notified in the Official Gazette from time to time, which is a continuous process.

Venue of Lakhubhai Pathak Case

728. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether on September, 30, 1996 Delhi Police Commissioner decided to make an appeal to the Supreme Court next day for the change of venue of Lakhubhai Pathak trial case;

(b) if so, whether the Home Ministry had accorded its consent to the above action of the Police Commissioner; and

(c) if not, the reasons for by passing the Home Ministry which control the Delhi Police?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c). Information is being collected.

Streamlining of PDS

729. SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV :
SHRI G.M. KUNTURKAR :
SHRI SURESH PRABHU :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether streamlining of the Public Distribution System from October onwards has been deferred;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether views of the State Governments were taken in this matter;

(d) if so, the States who offered their comments and whose views were incorporated in the programme; and

(e) if so, the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Hon'ble Prime Minister in his Independence Day address to the Nation on 15th August, 96 announced that 10 kg. of foodgrains would be provided every month to the poor families at half the normal price. The scheme was to came into operation from 2nd October, 1996, Gandhi Jayanti Day. However, in vew of the election in Uttar Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir the scheme was deferred.

(c) Yes, Sir. The issue of streamlining the PDS was discussed in the conference of Chief Ministers on Basic Minimum Services held during 4-5 July, 1996. Keeping in view the suggestions of the Chief Ministers, a Conference of the State Food Minister's was held on 7th August, 1996 to discuss further the question of targeting the PDS.

(d) All States/UTs had participated in the Conference of State Food Ministers held on 7th August, 1996. The Conference unanimously endorsed the proposal for targeted PDS especially the provision of subsidised foodgrains to the population below poverty line and recommended that the Central Governme might bring in this targeted PDS into force as soon as possible.

(e) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

Deaths due to Starvation

730. KUMARI SUSHILA TIRIYA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the starvation problem in Orissa and loss of lives as a result thereof during the recent months; and